

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VANCOU 00808 091649Z

63
ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2943
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, ECON, CA
SUBJECT: B.C. CONSTRUCTION STRIKE ENDS

REF: VANCOUVER 703

1. COMBINED STRIKE-LOCKOUT OF 40,000 CONSTRUCTION WORKERS EMPLOYED BY 800 CONTRACTORS ENDED AUGUST 6 AFTER FINAL PICKET LINES WERE WITHDRAWN. STRIKE BEGAN JUNE 30 TYING UP ESTIMATED DOLS 2 BILLION IN ONGOING PROJECTS IN B.C. INDUSTRIAL INQUIRY IOMMISSIONER HAD RECOMMENDED 98 CENT HOURLY INCREASE RETROACTIVE TO MAY 1 AND 31 CENT HOURLY INCREASE BEGINNING NOVEMBER 1. CONTRACT TO BE ONE YEAR FROM MAY 1/76 TO APRIL 30/77

2. INCREASE AVERAGES 12 PER CENT ON HOURLY BASE RATES RANGING FROM APPROXIMATELY DOLS. 9.50 TO 12.00 CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION IS REFUSING TO PAY MORE THAN 8 PER CENT UNTIL ANTI-INFLATION BOARD (AIB) APPROVAL RECEIVED. ALTHOUGH SEVERAL UNIONS OPPOSED, ALL UNIONS STATE THAT ALL WORKERS WILL BE BACK ON PROJECTS BY AUGUST 9. CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION SAYS ADDITIONAL INCREASE BEYOND 8 PER CENT WILL BE PAID INTO ESCROW ACCOUNT PENDING AIB RULING.

3. SETTLEMENT RECOMMENDED IS BASICALLY SAME ONE OFFERED BY IONTRACTORS SEVERAL WEEKS AGO. INQUIRY COMMISSIONER S REPORT STATES "LITTLE TRUE BASIS "FOR STRIKE TO HAVE OCCURED. ISSUE OF JOINT BARGAINING BY UNIONS INVOLVED STILL NOT SETTLED.
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PAGE 02 VANCOU 00808 091649Z

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NNN

Message Attributes

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